

SREB

Legislative Report

Governors' legislative and budget proposals

This report presents a summary of the education budgets recommended by the governors of SREB member states. It includes annual budget proposals from 12 SREB states, focusing primarily on general fund allocations. The report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the proposed education funding and highlight the legislative priorities of the governors for the upcoming fiscal year.

Alabama (<http://www.legislature.state.al.us/>)

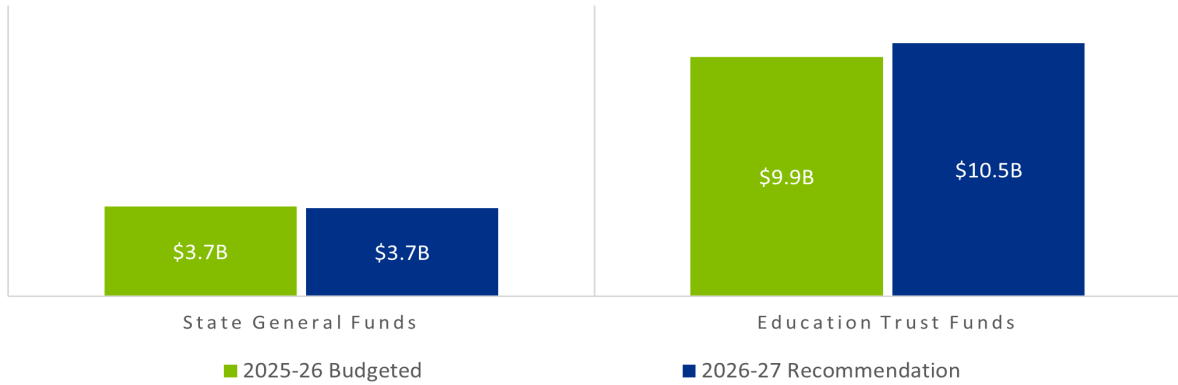
In her State of the State address, Gov. Kay Ivey reaffirmed that education remains her top priority for the coming fiscal year and announced plans to continue making generational investments in Alabama's students, teachers and families. Her plan includes maintaining the state's commitment to proven initiatives such as the Literacy and Numeracy Acts, while reinforcing reforms that are delivering results, including the First Class Pre-K program. The proposed budget provides a 2% pay increase for all state employees, including K-12 teachers, and increased funding for the CHOOSE Act — Alabama's education savings account program and for K-12 school safety efforts.

It also continues funding for turnaround schools, provides support for paid parental leave for teachers and expands computer science education. Additionally, Ivey expressed her full support for the legislation lawmakers proposed on establishing a temporary teaching certificate pathway for qualified veterans and limiting screen time for children ages five and younger in publicly funded early learning centers.

Other budget priorities of the governor include targeted investment in public safety, increased state contribution to employee health insurance and continued economic and workforce development efforts.

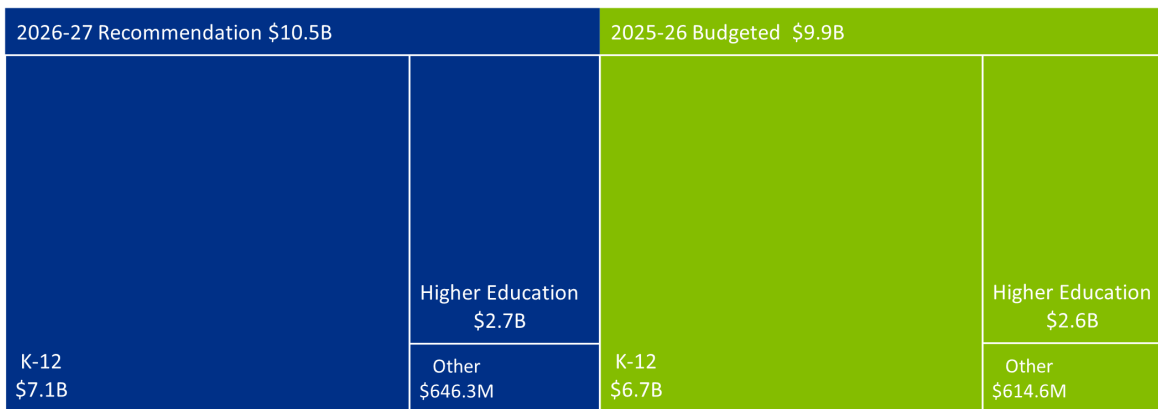
The State General Fund, which supports state government functions other than education, would total nearly \$3.7 billion, down 1.7%. The Education Trust Fund, which supports education as well as some non-education state functions, would rise 5.8% to nearly \$10.5 billion.

State Funds



The Education Trust Fund for K-12 education would total nearly \$7.1 billion (up 6%) and higher education would total \$2.7 billion (up 5.8%).

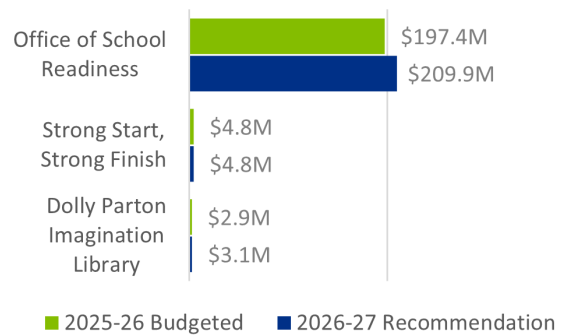
Education Trust Funds



Alabama Early Childhood Education

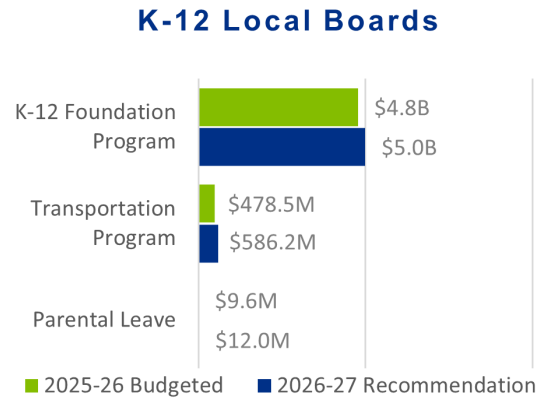
- \$226.6 million for the department of early childhood education (up 6.3%) including:
 - \$209.9 million for the Office of School Readiness (up 6.3%)
 - \$4.8 million for Strong Start, Strong Finish (level funded)
 - \$3.1 million for Dolly Parton Imagination Library (up 8.8%)

Early Childhood Education



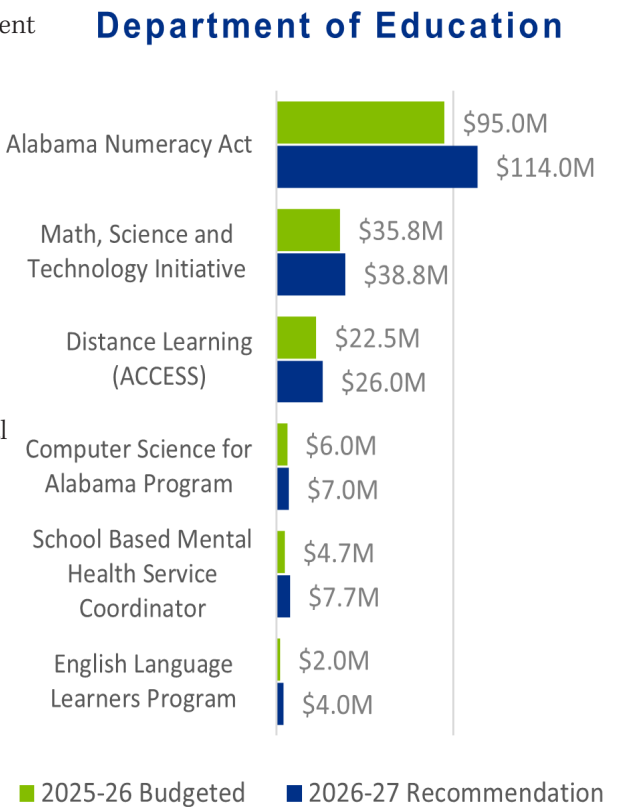
Alabama K-12 Local Boards

- \$5.9 billion, up 6%, for K-12 local boards which includes:
 - Nearly \$5 billion for K-12 Foundation Program (up 4.6%)
 - \$586.2 million for school transportation (up 22.5%)
 - \$12 million for parental leave (up 25%)



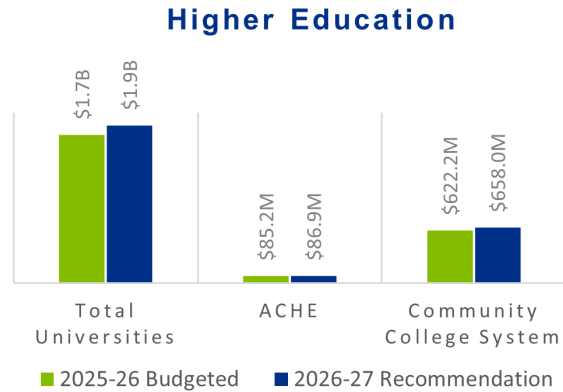
Alabama Department of Education

- \$755.9 million, up 3.1% for the state department of education including:
 - \$114 million for Alabama Numeracy Act (up 20%)
 - \$38.8 million for math, science and technology initiative (up 8.4%)
 - \$26 million for distance learning (up 15.6%)
 - \$7 million for Computer Science for Alabama Program (up 16.7%)
 - Nearly \$7.7 million for school based mental health service coordinator (up 63.1%)
 - \$4 million for English Language Learners Program (up 100%)



Alabama Higher Education

- Nearly \$1.9 billion for state-funded colleges and universities, up 5.8%
- \$86.9 million for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, up 1.9%
- \$658 million for the community college system, up 5.8% including \$54.2 million for dual enrollment (up 22.6%)



Delaware [\(http://legis.delaware.gov/\)](http://legis.delaware.gov/)

In late January, Gov. Matt Meyer proposed his budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year, totaling nearly \$6.9 billion, a 5.4% increase from the previous year's budget. Meyer's key priorities include strengthening public education, lowering costs for working families, expanding access to affordable housing and improving access to affordable and quality healthcare in every community.

The governor reaffirmed that education remains a central focus and reiterated his administration's commitment to literacy, equity and accountability. His education priorities include providing direct investment in more than 4,000 Delaware classrooms and modernizing the state's school funding system.

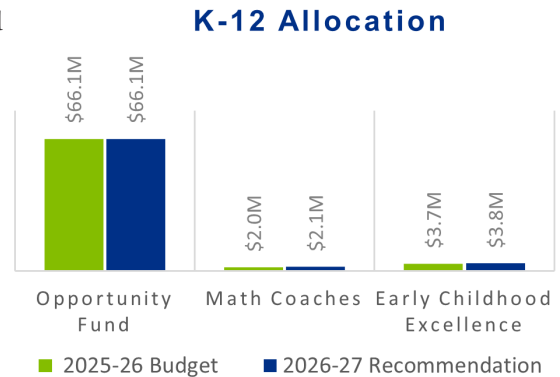
State allocation for the state department of education would rise 3.8% to nearly \$2.5 billion and overall higher education would rise 2.7% to \$324.1 million.

General Funds

2026-27 Recommendation \$6.9B		2025-26 Appropriation \$6.6B	
Other \$4.1B	K-12 \$2.5B	Other \$3.9B	K-12 \$2.4B
	Higher Ed; \$324.1M		Higher Ed; \$315.6M

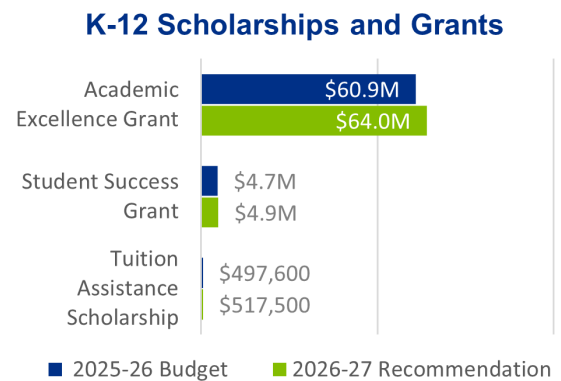
Delaware K-12 Education

- \$66.1 million for Opportunity Fund, level funded
- \$2.1 million for math coaches, up 9.4%
- \$3.8 million for early childhood excellence, up 2.7%



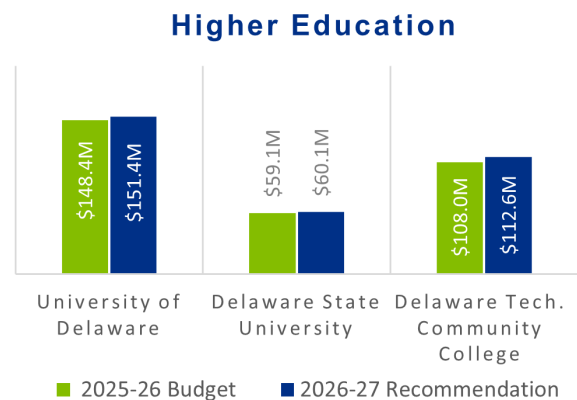
Delaware Scholarships and Grants

- \$64 million for Academic Excellence block grant, up 5.1%
- \$4.9 million for Student Success block grant, up 4.6%
- \$517,500 for tuition assistance scholarship, up 4%



Delaware Higher Education

- \$151.4 million for the University of Delaware, up 2%
- \$60.1 million for Delaware State University, up 1.6%
- \$112.6 million for Delaware Technical Community College, up 4.2%



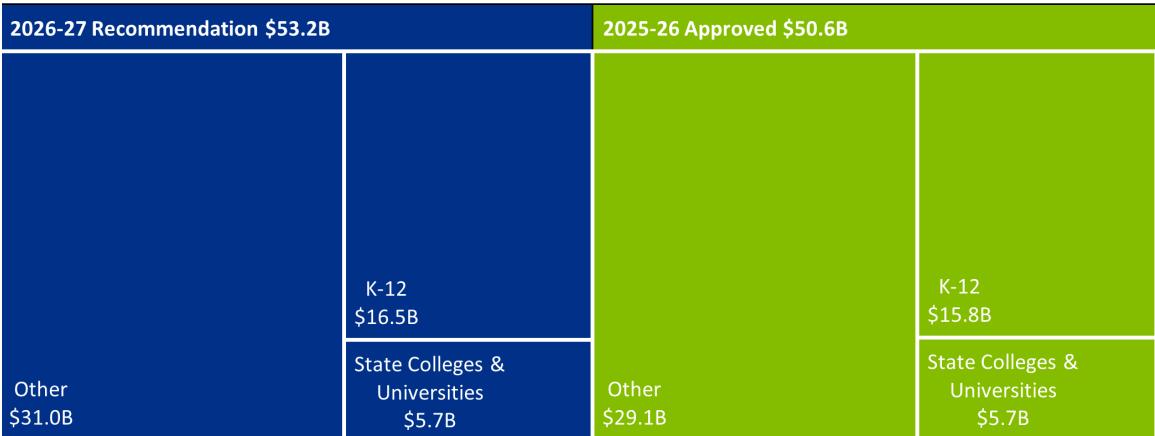
Florida [\(http://focusonfloridasfuture.com/\)](http://focusonfloridasfuture.com/)

Gov. Ron DeSantis’ “Floridians First” budget proposal for fiscal year 2026-27 underscores his commitment to fiscal responsibility, with general fund spending set at \$53.2 billion, a 5.2% increase. The proposal emphasizes keeping government efficient by reducing state government positions, retaining quality talent by implementing various pay adjustments, reducing debt, maintaining strong reserves, safeguarding Florida’s retirement system and continuing various tax holidays.

The recommended education budget increases per-student funding to \$9,406 and covers nearly 476,000 students projected to participate in Florida’s school choice program, the Family Empowerment Scholarship. It also provides funding for salary increases for teachers and instructional personnel and additional support for safe schools allocation.

The general funds for K-12 education would rise 4.6% to \$16.5 billion and for state colleges and universities would rise 1.5% to \$5.7 billion.

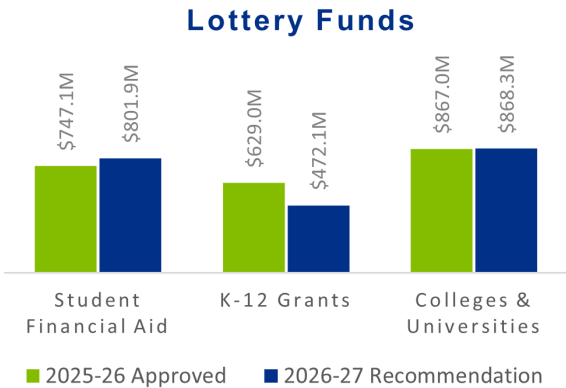
General Funds



Florida Education Enhancement Lottery Funds

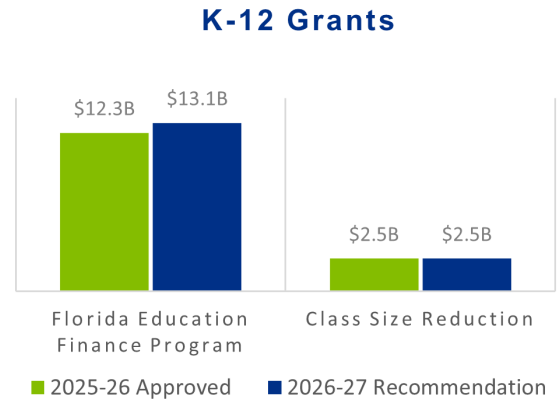
Total lottery funding decline 4.6% to nearly \$2.4 billion.

- Student financial aid funding would increase 7.3% to \$801.9 million
 - \$6692.5 million for Bright Futures, up 8.6%
- K-12 grants would decline 24.9% to \$472.1 million
 - \$395.5 million for Florida Education Finance Program funding, down 24.7%
 - \$76.6 million for class size reduction, down 26.2%
- Colleges and universities would rise 0.1% to \$868.3 million:
 - \$138 million for workforce development and \$254.8 million for the Florida college system, both level-funded



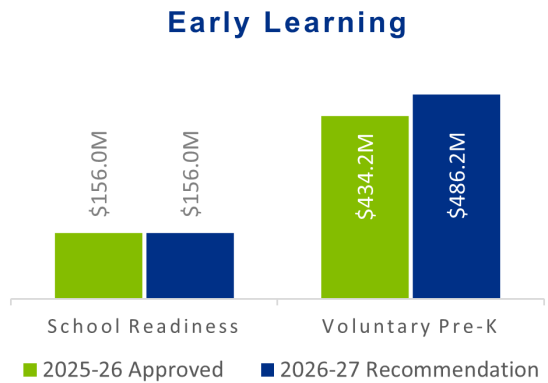
Florida K-12 Grants: General Funding

- State grants for K-12 education total \$15.6 billion, up 5.2%, including:
 - \$13.1 billion for Florida Education Finance Program, up 6.3%
 - \$2.5 billion for class size reduction, level funded



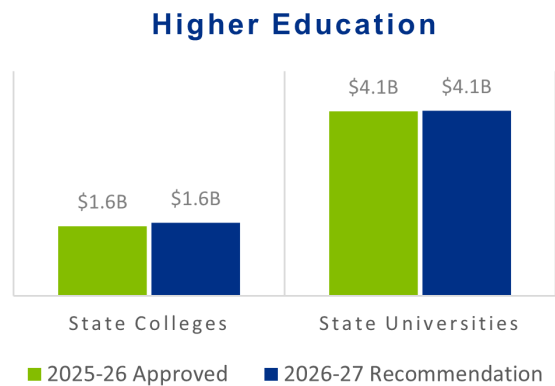
Florida Early Learning: General Fund

- School readiness services unchanged at nearly \$156 million
- Voluntary pre-K up 12% to \$486.2 million



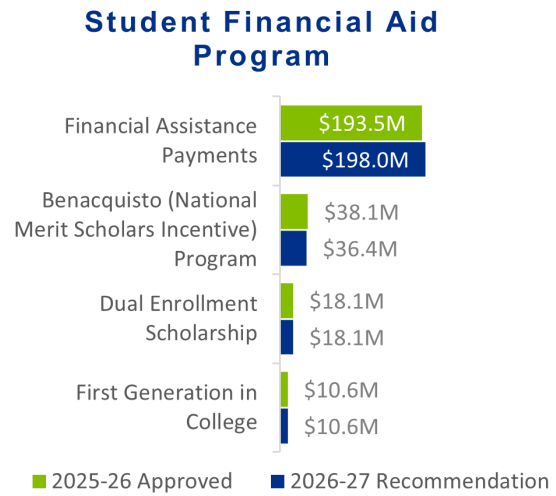
Florida Higher Education: General Fund

- \$1.6 billion for Florida college system, up 4.7%
- \$4.1 billion for state universities general activities, up 0.3%



Florida Student Financial Aid Program: General fund

- Student financial aid general funding would total \$322.5 million, down 1.3%, including:
 - Nearly \$198 million for financial assistance payment, up 2.3%
 - \$36.4 million for Benacquisto Program — a national merit scholars incentive program, down 4.4%
 - \$18 million for dual enrollment scholarships and \$10.6 million first generation in college, both level-funded



Workforce Education: General Fund

- General funds for workforce education rises 16.6% to \$505.2 million including:
 - \$349.2 million for aid to local governments' workforce development, up 6%
 - \$100 million for Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant, up 150%

Georgia [\(https://opb.georgia.gov/\)](https://opb.georgia.gov/)

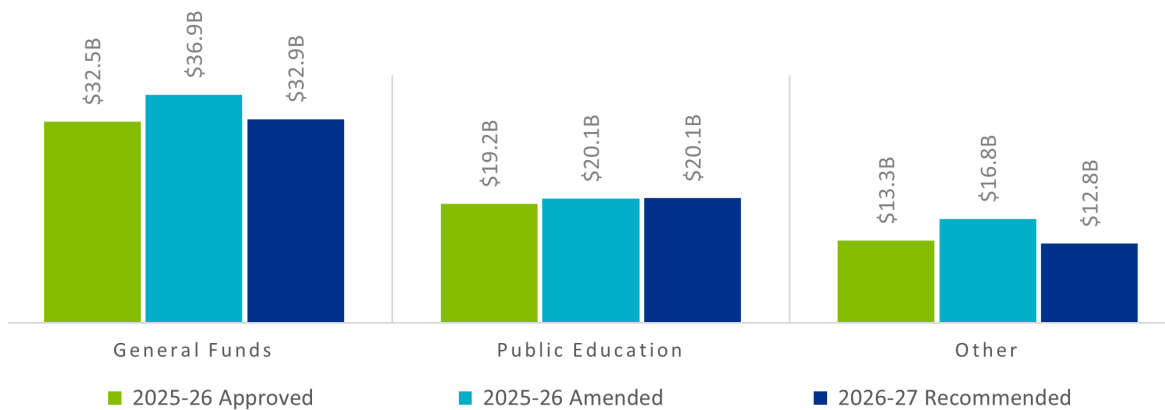
In his final State of the State Address, Gov. Brian Kemp reinforced his administration’s principles of investing strategically, reducing the tax burden on families and job creators, and ensuring Georgia continues to promote innovation and economic development. The key highlights of Kemp’s budget proposal include providing a one-time tax rebate to Georgians that would return or save up to \$250 to individual filers, as well as a 20-basis-point reduction in the personal and corporate income tax rate, lowering it to 4.99%.

He also proposed a one-time \$2,000 pay supplement for all state employees, including educators and state public safety officers. Other budget priorities include providing an enhanced retirement plan for state law enforcement officers, improving mobility across all communities, delivering additional support for site development in rural communities, expanding natural gas infrastructure and modernizing transportation systems.

One of the key highlights of the governor’s amended 2025-26 budget is a \$325 million one-time endowment to the University System of Georgia to establish the DREAMS Scholarship program, creating the state’s first need-based scholarship to qualify students at USG institutions and complementing the state’s merit-based HOPE scholarship program. The program is set to start in the 2026-27 academic year.

The statewide general funds for 2026-27 would total \$32.9 billion, up 1.3% from the originally approved 2025-26 budget and down 10.71% from the 2025-26 amended budget.

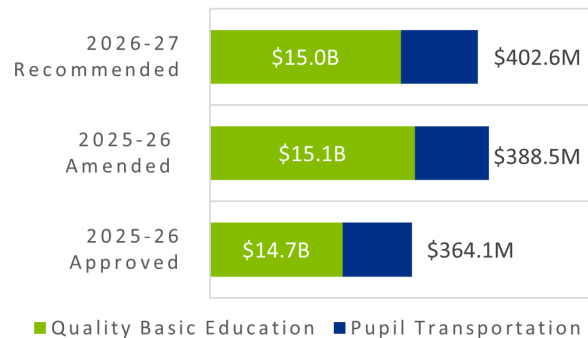
General Funds



Georgia K-12 Education

- Quality Basic Education formula funding:
 - \$115.1 billion in 2025-26 amended budget, up 0.5% from 2025-26 original budget
 - \$115 billion in 2026-27, up 2.1% from 2025-26 original budget
- School transportation:
 - \$3388.5 million in 2025-26 amended budget, up 3.7%
 - \$402.6 million in 2026-27, up 10.6% from the 2025-26 original budget

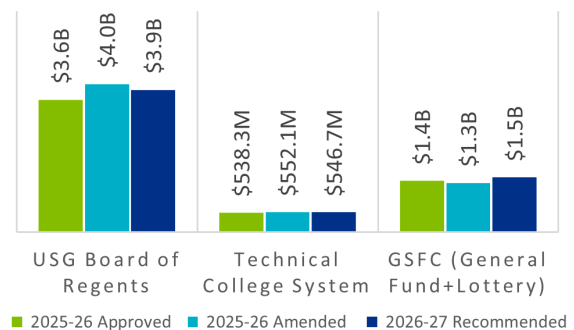
Department of Education



Georgia Higher Education

- Nearly \$3.9 billion in 2026-27 for the University System of Georgia, up 7.5% from the 2025-26 original budget:
 - Includes \$3.5 billion for teaching, up 8%
- \$546.7 million in 2026-27 for the technical college system, up 1.6% from 2025-26 original budget
- Nearly 1.5 billion in 2026-27 for the Georgia Student Finance Commission, up 6.7% from 2025-26 original budget, including:
 - \$136.3 million for dual enrollment, up 25.3%
 - \$27.1 million for tuition equalization grants, up 17.2%

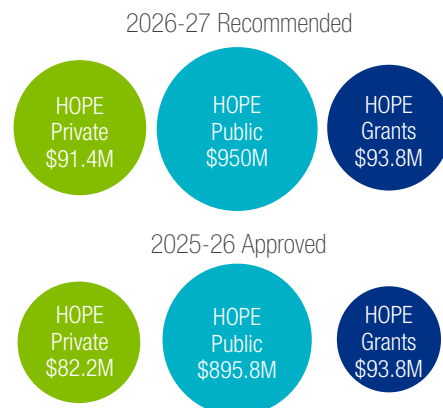
Higher Education



Georgia Scholarship Lottery Funds

- Funding for scholarships from lottery funds:
 - Nearly \$950.7 million for HOPE scholarship for public schools, up 6.1%
 - \$91.4 million for HOPE scholarship for private schools, up 3.6%
 - \$93.8 million for HOPE Grants, level funded
 - \$580.8 million for Bright from the Start Pre-K program, up 3.2%

College Completion Grants



Kentucky [\(http://osbd.ky.gov/\)](http://osbd.ky.gov/)

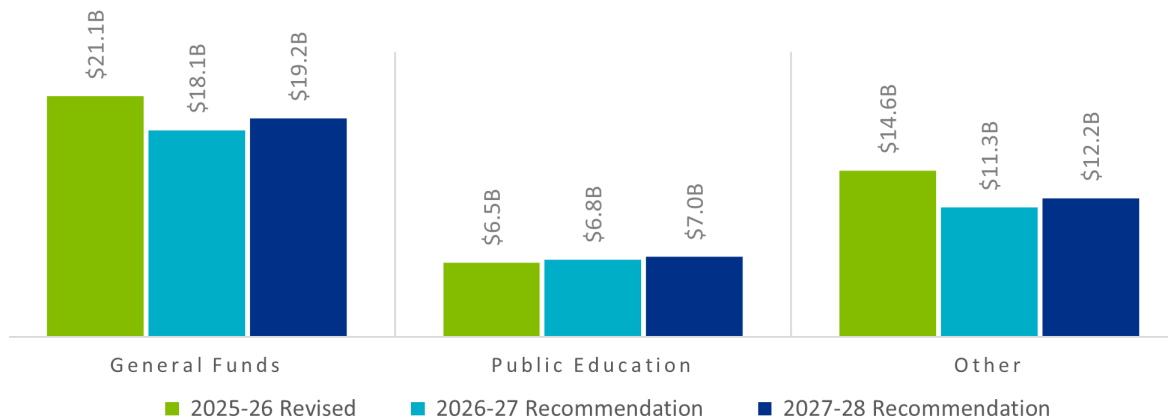
In early January, Gov. Andy Beshear unveiled his final budget proposal for the 2026-28 biennial, prioritizing affordability, infrastructure and economic development, and education. In his State of the Commonwealth address, the governor identified Pre-K for All — Kentucky’s universal preschool for four-year-olds — as a top education priority and proposed \$40.5 million in fiscal year 2028 to aid the program’s initial phase, along with \$10 million to establish a supporting data system.

The education budget also includes a 6.9% pay increase for educators over two years, consisting of a 3% salary increase for all full-time school personnel and coverage of the 3.75% contribution educators currently pay toward the Teachers’ Retirement System medical insurance trust fund. The proposal fully funds teacher pensions and retiree medical benefits, increases the base per-pupil funding amount by 2.5% each year of the biennium, and provides additional funding for renovations and improvements to secondary career and technical education centers. It also aims to improve budget certainty for postsecondary institutions.

Beshear’s other major priorities include providing support for affordable housing, rural hospitals, utility and food assistance programs, and fully funding Medicaid to protect health care access. He also focuses on creating build-ready sites to attract jobs, strengthening public safety, protecting children and families, and improving infrastructure and transportation.

The statewide general fund would total nearly \$18.1 billion for 2026-27, down 14.1% from the 2025-26 revised budget and \$19.2 billion for 2027-28, up 5.8% from the first year of the biennium. Funding for public education would total nearly \$6.8 billion in 2026-27 (up 4.1% from 2025-26) and \$7 billion in 2027-28 (up 3.3% from 2026-27).

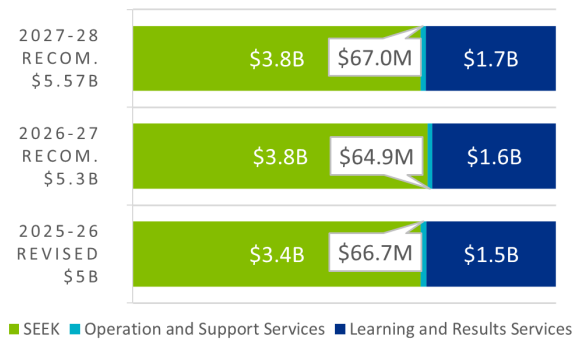
General Funds



Kentucky K-12 Education

- Funding for Kentucky Department of Education would total \$5.3 billion in 2026-27, up 6% from 2025-26. The department would receive \$5.5 billion in 2027-28, up 4.2% from the first year of the biennium.
- Nearly \$3.8 billion in 2026-27 (up 10.5% from 2025-26) and another \$3.8 billion in 2027-28 (down 0.1% from 2027-28) for Support Education Excellence in Kentucky funding formula, including:
 - Nearly \$2.1 billion for each year of the biennium for base allotment, increasing the amount from \$4,586 to \$4,701 in 2027 and \$4,818 in 2028 per student
 - \$529.4 million in 2026-27 (up 13.1% from 2025-26) and \$541.3 million in 2027-28 (up 2.2% from 2026-27) for local district teachers' retirement match
 - \$158 million in funding each year for teacher and school employee salary increases
- \$64.9 million in 2026-27 (down 2.7% from 2025-26) and nearly \$67 million in 2027-28 (up 3.2% from 2026-27) for K-12 operations and support services
- Nearly \$1.6 billion in 2026-27 (up 2.7% from 2025-26) and \$1.7 billion in 2027-28 (up 8.1% from 2026-27) for K-12 learning and results services, including:
 - \$1.1 billion in 2026-27 and \$1.2 billion for local district health and life insurance
 - \$15 million each year for the Center for School Safety

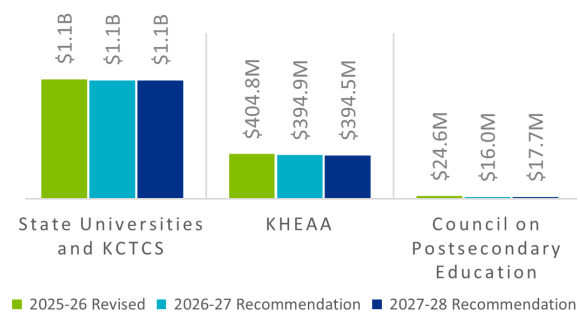
Department of Education



Kentucky Higher Education

- Funding for public postsecondary education would total nearly \$1.5 billion for each year (down 1.9% from 2025-26 in the first year and up 0.1% from 2026-27 in the second year), including:
 - \$865.8 million for each year for state-funded colleges and universities
 - \$206.3 million for each year (down 1% from 2025-26) for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- Nearly \$395 million for each year (down 2.4% from 2025-26) for Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority
- \$16 million in 2026-27 (down 34.9% from 2025-26) and \$17.7 million (up 10.2% from 2027-28) for the Council on Postsecondary Education

Postsecondary Education



Maryland [\(http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/\)](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/)

Gov. Wes Moore’s proposed fiscal year 2026-27 budget continues to focus on supporting the essential services for Marylanders— public safety, education, access to jobs, health care, housing and transportation, while addressing a projected \$1.4 billion budget shortfall without raising taxes or fees. Key highlights of the budget include increased funding for pre-K-12 education, a 1.5% cost-of-living adjustment for most state employees, additional support to offset rising health insurance and retirement costs, and expanded investments in hands-on workforce training to prepare workers for opportunities in the AI economy.

The governor’s other priorities focus on ending child poverty, improving student outcomes, building a competitive and equitable economy, creating safer communities, keeping Maryland welcoming and affordable, ensuring high-quality health care, leading in clean energy and promoting a culture of service.

The state general fund for 2026-27 would total \$27.7 billion, which is 0.6% lower than the 2025-26 appropriation. General funds for the Maryland Department of Education would rise 1.3% to \$8 billion and for higher education would rise 1.8% to \$3.2 billion.

General Fund

2025-26 Appropriation \$27.9B		2026-27 Recommendation \$27.7B	
Other \$16.8B	Department of Education \$7.9B	Other \$16.4B	Department of Education \$8.0B
	Higher Education \$3.2B		Higher Education \$3.2B

Maryland K-12 Education

- General Funds:
 - \$1.1 billion for fringe benefits, up 7.4%
 - \$414.2 million for childcare assistance grants, level funded
 - \$9.7 million for Maryland Center for School Safety, up 47.4%
 - \$15.8 million for innovative programs, down 5.6%
 - \$10.9 million for Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Transition Grants

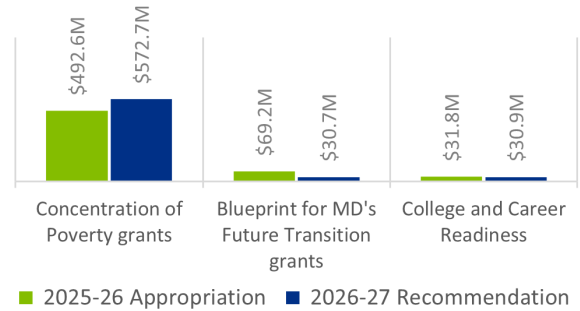
K-12 Allocation: General Funds

Fringe Benefits	\$981.8M
	\$1.1B
Child Care Assistance Grants	\$414.2M
	\$414.2M
MD Center for School Safety	\$6.6M
	\$9.7M
Innovative Programs	\$16.8M
	\$15.8M
Blueprint for MD’s Future Transition Grants	\$0M
	\$10.9M

Maryland K-12 Education (continued)

- Special Funds:
 - \$572.7 million for Concentration of Poverty grants, up 16.3%
 - \$30.7 million for Blueprint for Maryland's Future transition grants, down 55.7%
 - \$30.9 million for college and career readiness, down 2.8%

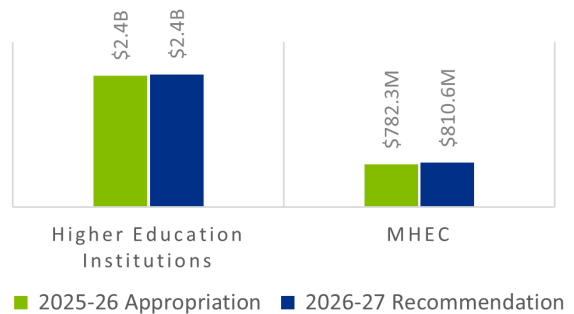
K-12 Allocation: Special Funds



Maryland Higher Education

- \$2.4 billion for state-operated institutions of higher education, up 1.2%
- \$801.6 million for Maryland Higher Education Commission, up 3.6%, including:
 - \$459.8 million for community colleges, up 7.6%
 - \$81.63 million for community college fringe benefits, 7.9%
 - \$77.8 million for nonpublic colleges, up 6.1%

Higher Education



Mississippi [\(https://governorreeves.ms.gov/\)](https://governorreeves.ms.gov/)

Gov. Tate Reeves’ executive budget recommendations for fiscal year 2026-27 would provide \$7.1 billion, which is 0.6% down from the 2025-26 appropriation. The proposed budget focuses on continuing economic development efforts, preparing the workforce for the jobs of the future, and maintaining Mississippi’s education gains. Reeves’ top priorities for the upcoming fiscal year include building a stronger economy for all, preparing and supporting the workforce for the high-paying jobs of the next 50 years, improving mental health outcomes, keeping Mississippians safe, supporting state courts, maintaining the Mississippi Miracle and giving parents more control in education.

State allocation for K-12 education would rise 0.9% to nearly \$3 billion and higher education would rise 0.2% to \$888.3 million.

General Funds

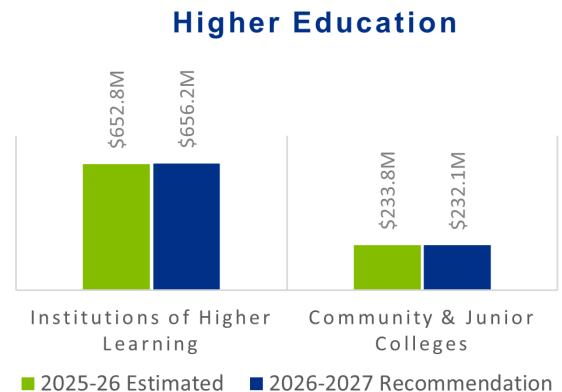
2025-26 Estimated Total \$7.1B		2026-27 Recommendation Total \$7.1B	
Other \$3.3B	K-12 \$2.9B Higher Education \$886.6M	Other \$3.2B	K-12 \$3.0B Higher Education \$888.3M

Mississippi K-12 Education

- \$2.7 billion for student funding formula, up 0.9%
- \$21.6 million for Chickasaw interest to resolve the disparity between counties that have 16th section lands and the Chickasaw Cession counties that have no 16th section lands, up 10.7%

Mississippi Higher Education

- \$656.2 million for state-supported institutions of higher learning, up 0.5%
- Nearly \$232.1 million for community and junior colleges, down 0.7%



Oklahoma [\(http://www.oklegislature.gov/\)](http://www.oklegislature.gov/)

Gov. Kevin Stitt’s priorities for 2026-27 budget remain same as the previous year, which are to make Oklahoma the most business-friendly state, support students from the classroom to careers, ensure public safety and promote the state. The budget proposes several modernization and efficiency initiatives, including creating Taxpayer Endowment Fund that will generate investment earnings which will reduce tax reliance, attract businesses and capital, and create pathways from classroom to careers by enhancing infrastructure and supporting apprenticeship programs statewide. He will also focus on improving execution and administration of government programs such as childcare programs and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, deposit a \$250 one-time state contribution into American Dream Accounts established for an eligible child.

The budget proposed nearly \$11.4 billion for the 2026-27 fiscal year, which is 9.8% down from the 2025-26 budget. Proposed total education funding would decline by 1.9% to \$5.6 billion.

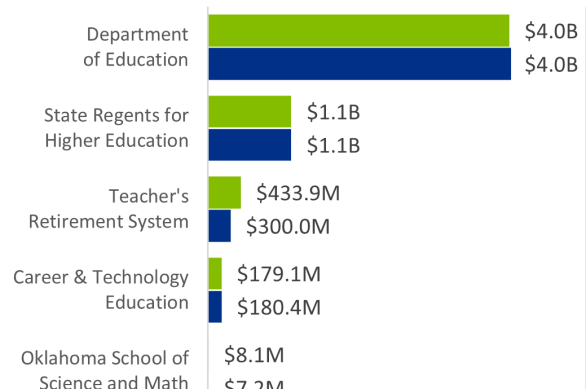
General Funds

2025-26 Appropriation \$13B		2026-27 Recommendation \$11.4B	
Other \$6.8B	Education \$5.8B	Other \$5.7B	Education \$5.6B

Oklahoma Overall Education Allocation

- \$4 billion for the state department of education, up 0.6%
- \$1.1 billion for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, level funded
- \$300 million for Teacher’s Retirement System, down 30.9%
- \$180.4 million for the Department of Career and Technology Education, down 0.7%
- Nearly \$7.2 million for Oklahoma School of Science and Math, down 11.2%

Education Allocation



South Carolina [\(http://www.governor.sc.gov/\)](http://www.governor.sc.gov/)

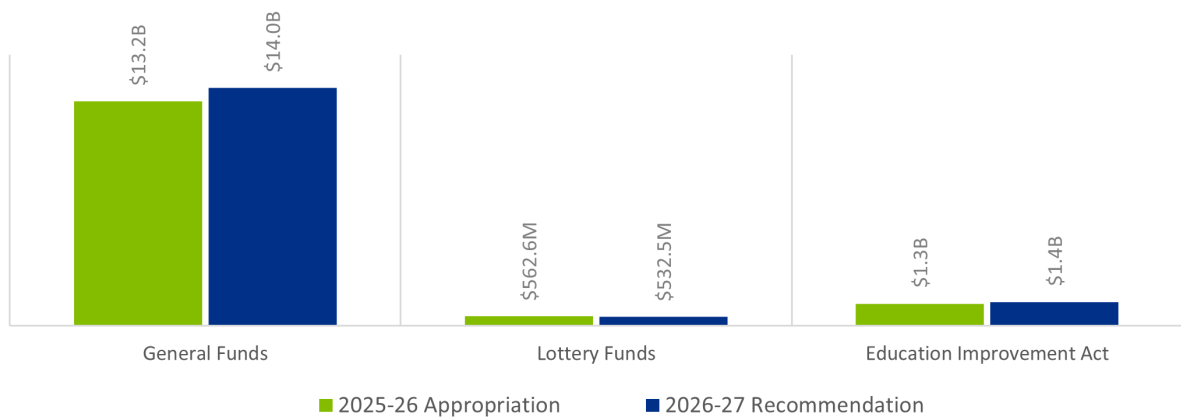
In mid-January, Gov. Henry McMaster announced a \$14 billion general fund budget for 2026-27, a 6% increase over the prior year. Key education priorities of the governor include raising the minimum starting teacher salary from \$48,500 to \$50,500, expanding enrollment eligibility for full-day four-year-old kindergarten program to families earning at or below 300% of the federal poverty level, providing free daily breakfast to all public school students and expanding the number and the amount of Education Trust Fund scholarships for income-qualified K-12 students.

In addition, the budget freezes in-state college tuition for 2026-27 academic year, recommends funding a new need-based college scholarship offering up to \$10,000 annually for eligible in-state students and allocates one-time funds for deferred maintenance at state-funded post-secondary institutions. McMaster also calls for a comprehensive review of the state’s public higher education institutions to better align with workforce needs.

McMaster’s other priorities include continuing to cut or eliminate the personal income tax rate and providing a \$2,000 state income tax credit for active-duty public safety personnel, improving and modernizing healthcare access, investing surplus funds to keep construction projects on schedule, and studying the long-term impact of population growth on infrastructure and services.

General funds for K-12 education would total \$4.7 billion, up 2.9%, and higher education would total \$1.5 billion, up 2.6%. Lottery funds dedicated to education would total \$532.5 million, down 5.3% and the Education Improvement Act would total \$1.4 billion, up 7.5%.

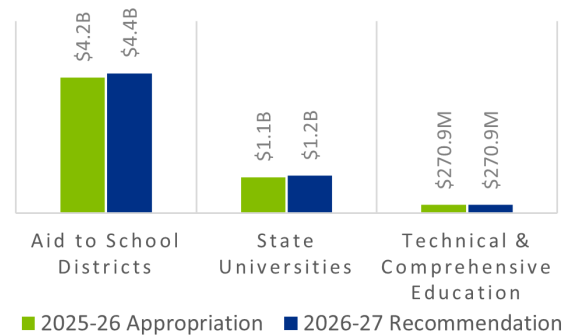
Recommended Appropriations



South Carolina General Funds

- Nearly \$4.4 billion for state aid to school districts, up 3.1%
- Nearly \$1.2 billion for state colleges and universities, up 3.5%
- \$270.9 million for technical and comprehensive education, level-funded
- \$42.1 million for Commission on Higher Education, up 0.4%

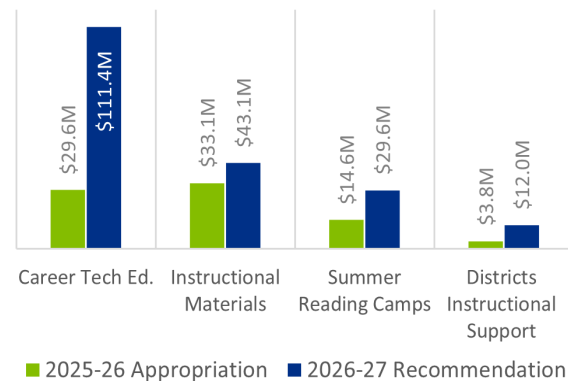
General Fund Allocation



South Carolina Education Improvement Act

- \$111.4 million for career and technical education, up 276.8%
- \$43.1 million for instructional materials, up 30.2%
- \$29.6 million summer reading camps, up 103.1%
- \$12 million for instructional support for districts, up 216.2%

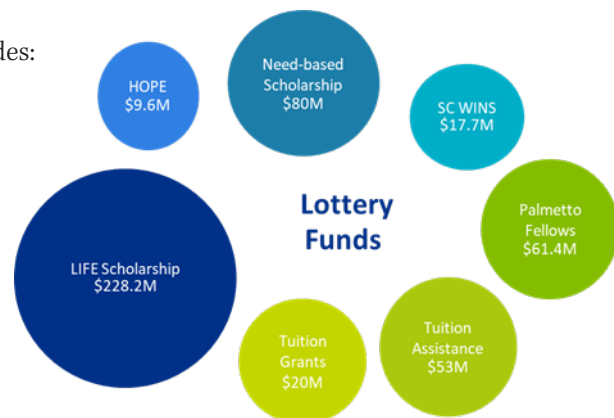
Education Improvement Act Allocation



South Carolina Lottery Funds

For 2026-27, the estimated education lottery revenue would total \$532.5 million which includes:

- \$228.2 million for LIFE scholarships
- \$80 million for need-based scholarship
- \$61.4 million for Palmetto Fellows
- \$53 million tuition assistance at 2-year institutes
- \$20 million for Tuition Grants for students attending private colleges and universities
- \$17.7 million for South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarships
- \$9.6 million for HOPE scholarships



Tennessee [\(https://www.capitol.tn.gov/\)](https://www.capitol.tn.gov/)

Gov. Bill Lee outlined his budgetary and legislative priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, emphasizing expanding economic and educational opportunities, enhancing public safety, supporting infrastructure and business development, improving health and social services, investing in state employees and preserving Tennessee’s natural heritage.

Lee’s key education initiatives include funding for additional 15,000 Education Freedom Scholarships and support to offset inflationary costs of the program, recurring funding for summer learning camps and transportation, increased funding for Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement formula, including raising starting teacher pay to \$50,000, group health insurance premiums, and retirement contributions for local education employees.

The budget also expands the Tennessee Youth Employment Program to provide more job opportunities for young Tennesseans. Additional education recommendations include non-recurring funding for the charter schools facilities fund, recurring funding for local education agencies to reimburse paid parental leave claims, increased school-based behavioral health liaisons and targeted workforce investments, including funding for nuclear energy workforce training to establish next-generation nuclear and cybersecurity technologies.

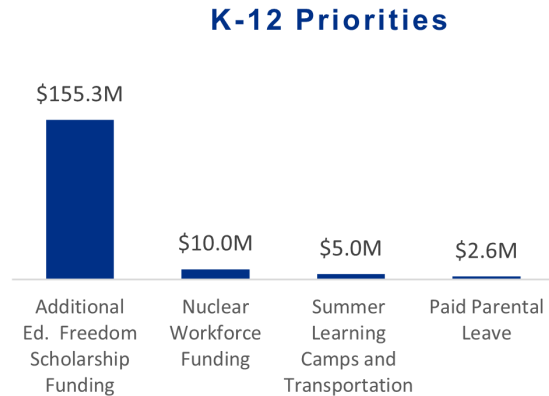
The general fund budget would total nearly \$25.8 billion, down 0.9% from last year’s estimated budget. State funds for K-12 education would total \$7.9 billion, up 1.1%, and higher education would total nearly \$3 billion, up 1.5%.

General Funds

2025-26 Estimated \$26B		2026-27 Recommendation \$25.8B	
	K-12 \$7.8B		K-12 \$7.9B
Other \$15.2B	High Ed \$2.9B	Other \$14.9B	High Ed \$3.0B

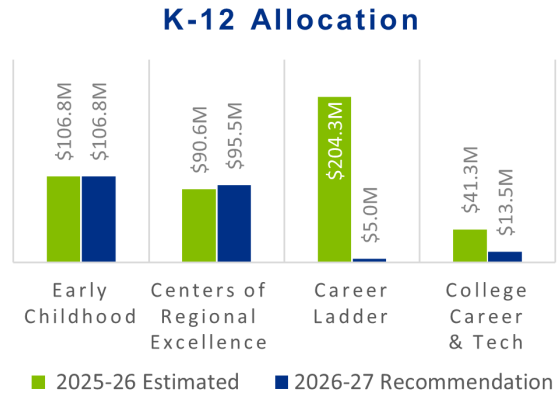
Tennessee K-12 Priorities for 2026-27

- Additional \$155.3 million for the Education Freedom Scholarship Act, including:
 - Recurring \$113 million to fund an additional 15,000 scholarships
 - Recurring \$42.4 million to cover inflationary costs
- \$5 million recurring funding for the summer learning program camps and transportation
- \$2.6 million recurring funding for local education agencies paid paternal leave
- \$10 million non-recurring funding to support workforce training initiatives with a focus on nuclear energy development.



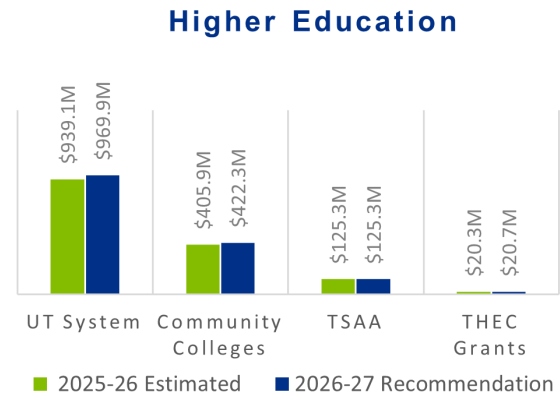
Tennessee Other K-12 Funding Areas

- \$106.5 million for early childhood education, level funded
- \$95.5 million for Centers of Regional Excellence, up 5.4%
- Nearly \$5 million for career ladder, down 97.6%
- \$14.9 million for college and career and technical education, level funded
- \$7.1 billion for Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement, up 2%



Tennessee Higher Education

- \$969.9 million for the University of Tennessee System, up 3.3%
- \$422.3 million for community colleges, up 4.1%
- \$125.3 million for Tennessee Student Assistance Awards, level-funded
- Nearly \$20.7 million for Tennessee Higher Education Commission Grants, up 1.6%



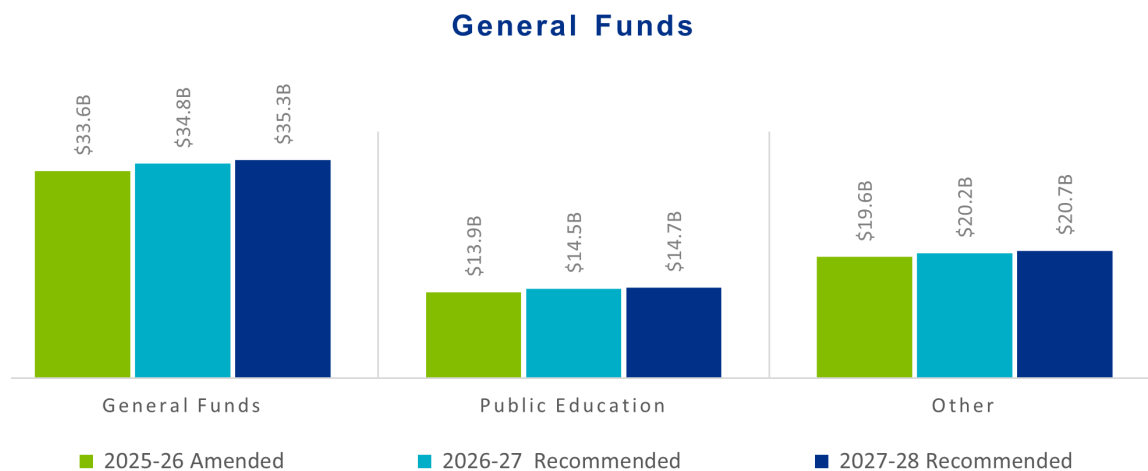
Virginia (<http://dpb.virginia.gov/budget/>)

In mid-December, Gov. Glenn Youngkin introduced his final biennial budget proposal for fiscal years 2026-28. His proposal highlights investments in education, funding to meet the Medicaid forecast, additional support for public safety, including the Virginia State Police and inmate medical care, and targeted tax relief measures.

The education budget includes a 2% bonus in fiscal year 2026 and a 2% salary increase in both years of the biennium for state employees, including teachers. It also expands childcare subsidy slots for eligible families with children from birth to age five, provides funding to help limit in-state undergraduate tuition increases, and dedicates funding for school construction assistance grants.

Newly elected Gov. Abigail Spanberger has the opportunity to work with the general assembly during the legislative session and propose executive amendments reflecting her administration's priorities.

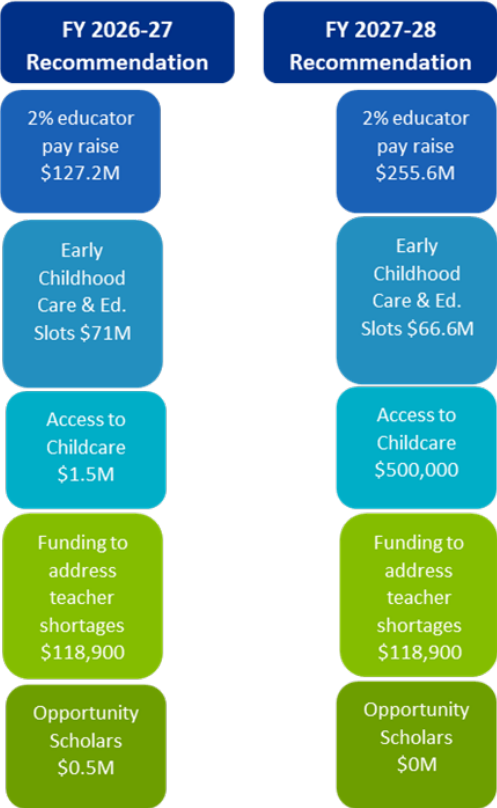
For 2026-27, the recommended general funds total \$34.8 billion, a 3.5% increase over the 2025-26 amended budget and for 2027-28, \$35.3 billion, a 1.7% increase from the first year of the biennium. General funds for all levels of education would total \$14.5 billion, up 4.1% over the prior year's amended budget and \$14.7 billion in 2027-28, up 1.1% from 2026-27 recommended amount.



Virginia K-12 Education

- \$127.2 million in 2026-27 and \$255.6 million in 2027-28 to provide a 2% salary raise for instructional and support positions each year of the biennium.
- \$71 million in 2026-27 and \$66.6 million in 2027-28 to support approximately 6,745 additional Early Childhood Care and Education slots for eligible children ages birth-to-five in each 2027 and 2028.
- \$1.5 million in 2026-27 and \$500,000 in 2027-28 to provide funding for technology to build and maintain a platform to host affordable childcare subsidy accounts.
- \$118,900 in each year of the biennium to address teacher shortages.
- \$0.5 million only in 2026-27 to provide one-time support for opportunity scholars to expand access to high-quality training and work-based learning opportunities across the Commonwealth

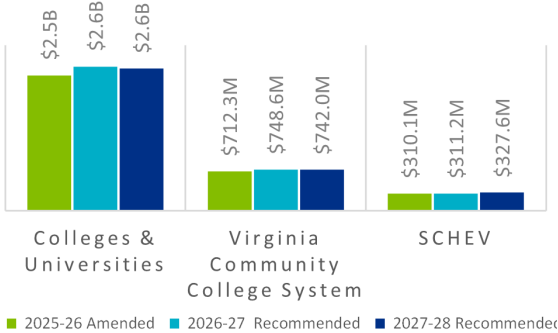
K-12 Allocation



Virginia Higher Education

- \$2.6 billion in 2026-27, up 6.7% from 2025-26 amended amount and nearly another \$2.6 billion in 2027-28, down 1.5% from the first year of the biennium for state-funded colleges and universities
- \$748.6 million in 2026-27, up 5.1% from 2025-26 amended amount and nearly another \$742 million in 2027-28, down 0.9% from the first year of the biennium for Virginia Community College System
- \$311.2 million in 2026-27, up 0.4% from 2025-26 amended amount and nearly \$327.6 million in 2027-28, up 5.3% from the first year of the biennium for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Higher Education



West Virginia [\(https://budget.wv.gov/\)](https://budget.wv.gov/)

Gov. Patrick Morrisey outlined his policy priorities for the upcoming legislative session, focusing on economic development, workforce preparation, infrastructure improvements, and investments in education and public health. He called for increased funding for higher education and technical training programs to help ensure that West Virginians have access to good-paying jobs. Morrisey proposed providing a 10% income tax cut, expanding rural health support, reforming the state’s public employees insurance program, strengthening the child welfare system and investing in tourism.

The governor’s education proposals include a 3% pay raise for all state employees, including educators. He also reaffirmed support for the Hope Scholarship program, proposing to pre-pay the next year’s scholarships to maintain the program’s stability. Additional initiatives include implementing Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling training grounded in the science of reading and expanding digital literacy initiatives to better integrate technology into K–12 schools and higher education.

The proposed budget includes a nearly \$5.5 billion general fund budget for 2026-27, up 1.6% from the 2025-26 budget. Funding for public K-12 education would increase 7.2% to \$2.4 billion and for post-secondary education would increase 2.7% to \$492.8 million.

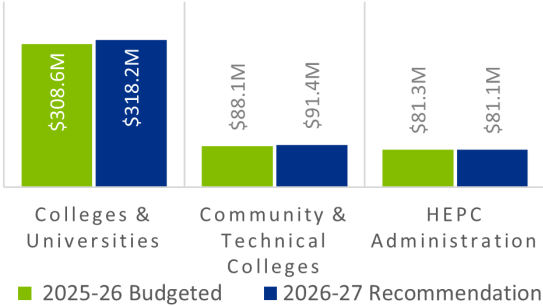
General Funds

2026-27 Recommended Total \$5.5B		2025-26 Budgeted Total \$5.4B	
Other \$2.6B	K-12 \$2.4B Higher Education \$492.7M	Other \$2.7B	K-12 \$2.3B Higher Education \$480.0M

West Virginia K-12 Education

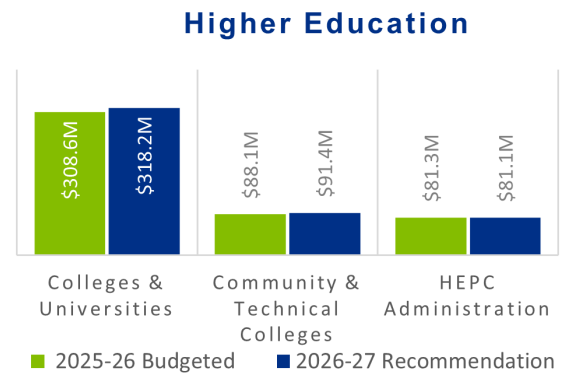
- \$963 million for professional educators, up 46.7%
- \$66.4 million for improved instructional programs, up 8%
- \$34.3 million for teacher and leader induction, up 21.5%
- \$230.1 million for Hope Scholarships, up 835.1%
- \$4 million for Mountain State Digital Literacy Program, up 300%

Higher Education



West Virginia Higher Education

- \$318.2 million for state-funded colleges and universities, up 3.7%
- \$91.4 million for community and technical colleges, up 3.7%
- \$81.1 million for West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission administration, down 0.1%, including:
 - \$40.6 million for the higher education grant program
 - \$5.8 million for dual enrollment program



Notes from other SREB States

Budget proposals of Arkansas, Louisiana, and North Carolina will be included in the next edition of the *Legislative Report*.

At the time of this writing, all SREB states have commenced their regular 2026 legislative sessions, with the exceptions of Arkansas, which convenes in April for a fiscal session and Texas, which does not hold regular sessions in even-numbered years.